

Promoting Fiscal Responsibility

Reducing our nation's budget deficit is one of the greatest challenges our government faces today. As our national debt reaches record heights, it is more important than ever that we make the difficult decisions necessary to put our nation's fiscal house back in order.

As a leading fiscal conservative, Congressman Altmire has consistently worked to cut federal spending and eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. A believer in leading by example, Congressman Altmire has also run his office so efficiently that he has already returned almost \$500,000 in taxpayer money.

Eliminating Pay Raises for Congress

Since taking office, Congressman Altmire has supported bills that blocked pay raises for Members of Congress. In 2010 and 2011, Congressman Altmire was instrumental in passing laws that cancelled Members of Congress's pay raises for the second and third year in a row. For more information, see [Altmire Welcomes New Law Eliminating Pay Raises for Members of Congress Next Year](#)

Making Significant Cuts to Balance Budget

In 2011, Congressman Altmire voted for the largest spending cut enacted since World War II. The measure to fund the federal government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011 passed the House with bipartisan support and made serious cuts to the federal budget, including reductions to Congressional office budgets. For more information on these historic budget cuts visit: [Altmire Votes for Historic Spending Cuts in FY 2011 Budget](#)

New Law Cracks Down on Wasteful Spending at the Pentagon

As a part of the historic spending cuts in the FY 2011 Budget, Congressman Altmire voted to eliminate spending on wasteful initiatives such as the development of the F-35 alternative engine, a project that funded the creation of duplicate engines by two different companies. Congressman Altmire has consistently opposed this initiative and other wasteful spending.

Opposing Taxpayer Funded Program Trips Abroad

After discovering that the Department of Transportation was sending employees abroad to study billboards, Congressman Altmire and seven colleagues wrote to Transportation Secretary LaHood urging him to suspend the program which was costing taxpayers nearly \$12 million over the past decade. The program has since been suspended.

Opposing Taxpayer Bailouts for Wall Street

Congressman Altmire has long been a fierce critic of taxpayer bailouts. After voting against the \$700 billion Wall Street Bailout twice in 2008, Congressman Altmire helped to create a new law that will end taxpayer bailouts for Wall Street once and for all. The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which was signed into law on July 21, 2010, will help to guarantee that in the future, the financial sector – not the American taxpayer – will be responsible for the cost of cleaning up Wall Street's mistakes. For more information, see [Altmire Votes to Reform Wall Street, End Taxpayer Bailouts](#)

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Holding Agencies Accountable for Spending

As part of his ongoing efforts to eliminate wasteful government programs, Congressman Altmire cosponsored the Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act. This legislation which was signed into law on January 4, 2011 -- requires federal agencies to issue periodic public reports on their efforts to meet clearly defined performance goals designed to help eliminate wasteful and duplicative federal programs. For more information, please see: [Altmire: Auditing Federal Agencies Will Help Congress Eliminate Wasteful Spending](#)

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Making It Easier to Eliminate Wasteful Spending

To further streamline federal spending, Congressman Altmire cosponsored the Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act (H.R.1043). This bill would allow the president to recommend the elimination of unnecessary programs to Congress when he signs spending bills into law. These proposed cuts would take effect if accepted by Congress. This legislation is modeled after the line-item veto used by President Clinton in the 1990s.